IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis in a mammal in need thereof, wherein said mammal expresses a Fcγ receptor, by means of an *in vivo* antibody-antigen interaction, without compromising the function of the antigen, which method comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen *in vivo* in said mammal so as to form an antibody-antigen conjugate, ~~and~~ wherein said antigen is a protein substantially soluble *in vivo* ~~and is a plasma protein~~, and wherein said antibody-antigen conjugate treats immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis of the mammal expressing the Fcγ receptor.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.

3. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 wherein said soluble foreign antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2 wherein said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form the antibody-antigen conjugate[[s]] prior to administering said conjugate[[s]] to said mammal.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.

6. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 2 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said soluble antigen is administered.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.

9. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8 wherein an effective amount of said antibody is administered.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8 wherein said endogenous soluble antigen is obtained from said mammal and incubated with said antibody to form antibody-antigen conjugates, said conjugates being administered to said mammal.

11. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 8 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.

12-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 for treating an immune thrombocytopenia.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 for treating inflammatory arthritis.

18. (Currently amended) A method of inhibiting platelet clearance in a ~~patient~~ mammal in need thereof, wherein said mammal expresses a Fcγ receptor, by means of an *in vivo* antibody-antigen interaction, without compromising the function of the antigen, which method comprises administering to the ~~patient~~

mammal a composition comprising a therapeutic amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said administration results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen so as to form an antibody-antigen conjugate in said mammal~~patient~~, ~~and~~ wherein said antigen is a protein substantially soluble *in vivo* ~~and is a plasma protein~~, and wherein said antibody-antigen conjugate inhibits platelet clearance in the mammal expressing the Fcγ receptor.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the therapeutic amount of the at least one antibody ranges from about 0.1μg to about 1g per kg of body weight per day.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the at least one antibody and/or soluble antigen is administered for a time sufficient to therapeutically increase and maintain platelet cell counts.

21. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein said soluble antigen is a foreign antigen.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen is administered to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

23. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen and said antibody are incubated together to form the antibody-antigen ~~or antibody-antigen-blood cell~~ conjugate[[s]] prior to administering said conjugate[[s]] to said mammal.

24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21 wherein said soluble antigen is ovalbumin.

25. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and an effective amount of said soluble antigen is administered.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27 wherein said soluble antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27 wherein an effective amount of said antibody is administered.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 27 wherein said soluble antigen is obtained from said mammal and incubated with said antibody to form antibody-antigen conjugates, said conjugates being administered to said mammal.

31-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for treating an immune thrombocytopenia or inflammatory arthritis by means of an *in vivo* antibody-antigen interaction, without invoking the biological function of the antigen, said composition comprising an effective amount of at least one IgG antibody and/or a complementary soluble antigen thereof in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein administration of said composition results in the selective binding of said antibody with said soluble antigen *in vivo* in said mammal, and wherein said antigen is substantially soluble *in vivo*.

34. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 33, wherein said antibody and/or soluble antigen is capable of inhibiting platelet clearance.

35. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is foreign antigen.

36. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble antigen for administration to said mammal prior to or following administering said antibody.

37. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said composition comprises said soluble foreign antigen and said antibody as antibody-antigen or antibody-antigen-blood cell conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.

38. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said foreign antigen is ovalbumin.

39. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 35 wherein said mammal has a pre-existing IgG to said soluble antigen and said composition comprises an effective amount of said soluble antigen.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 33 wherein said soluble antigen is endogenous.

42. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 41 wherein said composition comprises an effective amount of said antibody.

43. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 41 wherein said soluble endogenous antigen is selected from albumin, transferrin and combinations thereof.

44. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 41 wherein said composition comprises said endogenous soluble antigen obtained from said mammal and said antibody as antibody-antigen conjugates for administering said conjugates to said mammal.

45-62. (Cancelled)